

an one as may prevent my speaking otherwise I am in good health, brother William is well and sends his love to you I hope my dear father that you have enjoyed good he/a/lth through the sickly season I should be very glad to hear from you soon and I beg you to recive the grateful affection of a dutiful son

Charles L Pettigrew

[Addressed] Mr E. Pettigrew Esq
Cool Spring
Washington Co
N.C.

Richard Benbury Creecy¹ to William Shepard Pettigrew UNC

Edenton. Oct. 16th 1835.

Dear Billy:—

Upon my return from the coast, a short time since, I found in the office the letter which you did me the favour to address me. It had been in the office for some time before my arrival, which explains the reason of it's having been so long unanswered.—The eastern coast of North Carolina, is an isolated situation, cut off from the mainland <in> by all regular communication, which renders them totally unacquainted with the circumstances and events which agitate the public mind away from home. They live on the barren sand and subsist on the products of fishing and the chase.—The portion of my time which I spent on the coast was quite agreeable from the novelty of the scenes by which I was surrounded. The manners & customs of the poeple and the general state of society was such as I had never before witnessed—and excited in my mind / mind some surprise, which nevertheless afforded considerable amusement. You see mankind in the primative state of society before they have been checked by the refinements of civilized society or have felt the influence of education. They are as wild and untrameled & untaught as the beasts that bound over their native sand hills. And I must confess that I find as much to admire in the character of these untaught men as I do in the character of those among whom education has shed her benign influence, and artificial regulations have marked out the pathway of rectitude. They are hospitable generous & humane, almost to a fault—and act upon that great & pure moral precept that we should do unto others as we would they should do unto us.—I remained among them during the whole of our sickly season and returned with very favourable impressions of the country & its / its inhabitants.

I also found in the Office, on my return a letter from Charles which I wish you would inform him, I will soon reply to. I also recieved a communication from a committee of the Society—for